

Subject:

From: Steve Baas [mailto:SBaas@mmac.org]
Sent: Tuesday, December 05, 2006 10:49 AM
To: Friedlander, Michael - DNR
Cc: Bruss, Larry H - DNR; Kessler, Kevin K - DNR
Subject: NR 411

Dear Mr. Friedlander:

We wanted to provide some general comments on the DNR proposed revisions to NR 411, particularly the TDM proposals, from the perspective of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC). It is our hope that these comments will be useful as review of this proposal moves forward.

Our first concern is philosophical. The very nature of the rules themselves imply that the state of Wisconsin believes decisions about everything from employee pay and benefits, to work hours and modes of transportation, are the province of government to dictate rather than of private entrepreneurs to decide on their own. That is a sweeping expansion of a big government “command and control” philosophy toward private business that flies in the face of the free market principles held dear by our association and so many of our member companies. Further, have considerable doubt that the DNR even has legitimate regulatory authority to pursue this level of interference in business decisions and would likely challenge any unilateral assertion of that authority by the department.

Our second concern is more practical. We are very concerned that the level of regulation and micro-management of business decisions proposed in the TDM proposal are excessive and threaten Wisconsin’s competitiveness. At a time when our region is aggressively pursuing new business and new economic development, this proposal creates a new maze of red tape that an increasingly broad spectrum of development projects would be forced to navigate before starting up in Wisconsin. That new regulatory burden would have serious negative effects on our competitiveness. We live in a fiercely competitive global marketplace where jobs and businesses are more mobile than ever before. The DNR should be working to create a regulatory environment that helps attract jobs and economic development to our state rather than erecting significant new regulatory obstacles like these that threaten to hang a “closed for business” sign on the borders of our state.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns. We would urge you to pull this existing proposal back and pursue more cooperative and incentives-based measures in which a cleaner environment and a vigorous economic climate are not cast, philosophically or practically, as

mutually exclusive goals.

Sincerely,

Steve Baas
Director of Government Affairs
MMAC

Peter Beitzel
Vice President of Business Development
MMAC